

### REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

Claims 29-48 are now pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented by the instant Preliminary Amendment. Claims 29, 47 and 48 are presented in independent form.

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/DE2003/004017, filed December 5, 2003, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of three corresponding Federal Republic of Germany patent application, filed January 3, 2003; May 13, 2003; and, October 31, 2003.

The claims being entered via the present Preliminary Amendment are intended to substitute for Claims 1-28 of the P.C.T. international application, as presented in the accompanying literal English translation of the international application and Article 19 Amendments, filed September 21, 2004.

New Claims 29-48 have been drafted in conformance with U.S. claim practice. Various formal amendments have also been entered to the Specification. A new Abstract, on a separate sheet of paper in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b)

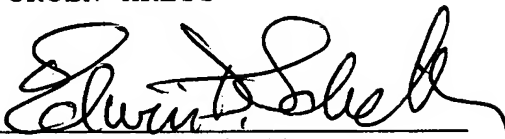
is also enclosed.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc.: Abstract of the Disclosure